

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

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AG PRODUCERS NEWS

Sept.—Oct. 2012

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offers you practical, how-to education based on university research. Reference to commercial products or trade names or made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas AgriLife Extension is implied.

For more information on any of the articles or activities listed in this newsletter, please contact the Johnson County Office at 817-556-6370.

Zach Davis

Zach Davis
County Extension Agent
Ag. & Natural Resources

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, US Dept. of Agriculture, and County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. A member of The Texas A&M University System and its statewide Agriculture Program.

2 CEUs; 2 BQA Credits

8:30 AM Registration

Registration fee: \$10.00

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

4TH ANNUAL CENTEX BEEF SYMPOSIUM

CLIFTON LIVESTOCK COMMISSION COMPANY, INC.

3199 HWY 6, Clifton, Texas 76634

Friday, September 28, 2012

Program Topics include:

Recovering Rangelands

Barron Rector, Associate Professor & Extension Range Specialist

Financing the Cow Herd

Dr. David Anderson, Professor & Extension Economist-Livestock Marketing

New Herbicide Research

William Hatler, Extension Program Specialist

Assisting with Difficult Calving Demonstration

Dr. Buddy Faries, Professor and Extension Veterinarian (Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense)

Top Dollar Calves

Dr. Jason Cleere, Associate Professor & Extension Beef Cattle Specialist



Visit with Commercial Vendors from a variety of Ag Support Industries

RSVP is required for meal planning by September 21, 2012.

For more information or to register,
contact your local county Extension Office.

This program is supported by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Beef & Forage Committees of the following counties: Bell 254.933.5305,

Bosque 254.435.2331, Coryell 254.865.2414, Falls 254.883.1410,

Hamilton 254.386.3919, Hill 254.582.4022, Johnson 817.556.6370,

Limestone 254.729.5314 & McLennan 254.757.5180

Higher grain prices could have long-lasting effect on livestock sector

Source: Agrilife Today

High grain prices continue to take a toll on the livestock sector as higher feed costs erode profit margins and lower bids for beef cattle, pork and related markets, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension economist.

"The high grain prices have had more of a direct impact on the livestock sector than anything," said Dr. Mark Welch, AgriLife Extension grains marketing economist in College Station. "It will take some time to adjust to this. We are seeing fewer broiler chicks placed on feed through 2012. The sow slaughter is above the five-year average. The drought has pushed more cattle to feedlots, but also has increased herd culling."

Welch said over time the profit potential in the livestock sector and the long-term implications for feed in the future "will mean lower feed demand in response to lower livestock and poultry numbers."

Overall, Welch said economists are still trying to get a firm number on the nation's overall grain supply for 2012.

"The early indications are 2 billion bushels below last year's crop," he said. "U.S. Department of Agriculture reports are stabilizing now, but we are at yield-reduction levels comparable to the 1988 drought."

Welch said latest field surveys indicate a national yield of 120 bushels per acre, 3 bushels below USDA's August yield report.

"It looks like we are on track for 120 bushels an acre," he said. "The question is once we get the supply situation settled, how far have we cut back on usage? We've cut back on ethanol use, feed use, and we're pulling back on the exports market. Given the high prices that we are seeing, we are probably about where we need to be."

Meanwhile, food prices will continue to be a target of higher corn prices.



"It certainly will have some influence over time," Welch said. "We need to remember as dramatic a price jump as this has been, this rally is only a couple of months old. It started in mid-June and it will take some time get through this."

Moderate energy prices have helped curtail any drastic increases in food prices, Welch said. Gasoline and diesel prices have been absorbed by manufacturers of food products and transportation costs have been held in check.

In the meantime, Welch said he doesn't see a dramatic increase in Texas corn acres in 2013.

Texas does not have ideal growing conditions for corn due to hot temperatures and water restrictions in some aquifers, hampering irrigation potential, he said. Welch noted the Ogallala aquifer as an example.

"Farmers are squeezing all of the efficiencies they can and trying to hang onto the acres they have for existing crops," Welch said. "There is the possibility for a dryland shift into grain sorghum, but I think that's limited."

GRASSHOPPER PROBLEMS-WHAT MORE CAN WE SAY?

Source: Newsletter of Veterinary Entomology, Dr. Sonja L. Swiger, Extension Entomologist

Grasshoppers are a problem in Texas, this year, last year, the year before that and next year. So one day I guess we'll have to learn how to live with them. Of course like any insect we need to find that happy medium so people who grow forage and crops will have enough to feed their cattle and not just the grasshoppers.

The grasshoppers will continue to be around until the first frost, and no one can predict when that will be. In the meantime they are going to eat a lot of food.

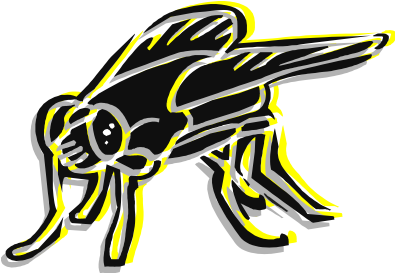
High populations are tied to drought for a number of reasons, per Dr. Allen Knutson. Grasshoppers hatched earlier than normal this spring and there were low numbers of fungus.

One thing I have noticed is that the grasshopper numbers did not appear to be much higher than last year BUT due to the drought they died off mid-summer since there was nothing to eat. Even grasshoppers can only handle so much heat and dry weather.

When the food source disappears and there is no water, everything dies off. Controlling grasshoppers takes due diligence and is best achieved when they are small and unable to fly. Since it is a bit late to do much control now except spraying, start thinking of how to protect you crops next year, start with weed control and tillage. Spray options: Mustang Max, Baythroid, Sevin, Malathion, Karate Z, Warrior II and Dimlin 2L

AgriLife expert offers tips for battling mosquitoes in your own backyard

Source: *AgriLife Today*



Rains have not been abundant this summer in North Texas, but an early jumpstart from the mild winter has given mosquitoes all they need for a mid-summer resurgence, said a Texas AgriLife Extension Service entomologist.

“Mosquitoes and mosquito-borne disease are a major problem in the Dallas Fort Worth metroplex this summer,” said Dr. Mike Merchant, AgriLife Extension urban entomologist at Dallas. “This is one of the worst years we’ve seen in north Texas for the mosquito-borne disease called West Nile virus, and the season is far from over. As of the first week in August, over 160 cases of the disease have been reported from Dallas County alone.”

Merchant advises Texans to be aggressive in dealing with the blood-sucking critters. As a first line of defense when going outdoors, especially at dusk or early morning, everyone should use insect repellent, preferably one containing DEET, IR-3535, picaridin or lemon oil of eucalyptus, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

But that’s not all. There are some practical steps everyone can take to further reduce mosquito risk around the home, he said.

“The first step is to make sure mosquitoes aren’t breeding on your own property,” he said. “It only takes a little water standing for a week or so to breed mosquitoes. And even without rain, stagnant water can come from shrinking ponds or creeks, irrigation water, or even washing the car.

“Some of the most common places to find standing water this time of year are in water catch basins, storm drains, flower pot dishes, untended water features and neglected swimming pools. After a summer shower, make sure you don’t have small containers, wheelbarrows or even children’s toys holding water.”

Merchant said standing water in catchment basins, ditches and other hard-to-drain sites can be treated with an insect growth regulator containing methoprene or the bacterial insecticide Bti. These insecticides are safe for the environment and come in dissolvable doughnut, briquettes or granular form.

“We usually don’t worry much about fish ponds, streams or creeks, because fish usually take care of the problem there,” he said.

Once possible breeding sites are eliminated, Merchant said there are several options for eliminating mosquitoes that still find their way into the yard.

“Knowing how mosquitoes behave and using the right products can make your home safer, inside and out,” he said.

He said mosquitoes spend most of their time during the day in shady resting sites around the backyard. So treating sites like tall grass, shrubs and trees, as well as shaded eaves, walls and especially doorways of the house can provide significant mosquito suppression.

“When you treat shaded doorways you can eliminate those mosquitoes that often get swept into the house when people come and go. These are some of the worst offenders because people don’t generally wear repellents indoors,” Merchant said.

Pump-up and hose-end sprayers and aerosol cans for backyard use can also be used to treat trees, shrubs and ground cover where mosquitoes rest during the heat of the day. Merchant said to look for products that promise multi-week control. Insecticides containing lambda-cyhalothrin, deltamethrin and cyfluthrin are good choices when the goal is long-term mosquito control.

“I’m not usually a fan of using broadcast pesticide applications in the backyard, but mosquitoes are serious business, especially this year,” he said.

If you don’t like the idea of treating yourself, and mosquitoes are a problem, another option is to hire a pest management company. Professionals have the tools and knowledge to apply insecticides properly and to successfully control mosquitoes.

If you choose to do it yourself, Merchant advises reading and following the pesticide label directions carefully. “If you wear the recommended gear, and apply when and where the label says, you can do your own mosquito control safely. All landscape sprays should be applied in the evening or early morning before bees and butterflies are active. Don’t spray insecticides on windy days or when rain is expected.

Use cereal grains to replace forage in drought conditions

Source: *Newsletter of Veterinary Entomology, Dr. Sonja L. Swiger, Extension Entomologist*

Beef herd owners short on pastures for their cows can provide fall grazing by planting cereal grains, says forage specialist from Rob Kallenbach of Missouri.

"Cereal oats, rye or wheat can supply needed pasture this fall if the seed is planted and rains return." Oats make a lot of sense for this fall; they can make heavy fall growth.

Kallenbach says, planting an annual cereal grass this fall will be an advantage since any forage will be worth a lot of money.

A second grazing option is cereal rye, which provides both fall grazing and another month of grazing next spring. Fall grazing can reduce winter feed costs to cow-herd owners. RRye won't make as much fall grazing as quickly as oats, but it can provide about 1.5 tons per acre. That can help reduce winter feed bills.



Triple Digit Temps Mean Watching Cattle for Heat Stress

Source: *Newsletter of Veterinary Entomology, Dr. Sonja L. Swiger, Extension Entomologist*



With the extreme summer temperatures hitting triple digits, cattle producers need to take steps to protect beef herds from heat stress.

Cattle can start to experience some level of heat stress when the heat index approaches 80 degrees, with most cattle being severely stressed when the index exceeds 100 degrees.

Water is the best way to dissipate heat. Cattle normally take in about 5-8 gallons of water per day but this can double or even triple.

Dr. Mader from U of Nebraska says, "It's important to have plenty of available water.

When there is competition for water it creates problems because the dominant animals will occupy waterer space and not allow other animals access."

If the cattle are crowding around the watering trough, add more waterer capacity or move some of the animals to pens that will give them adequate access to water.

Avoid handling cattle when it's hot and never after 10 am. Cattle body temperatures can rise an additional 0.5 to 3.5 degrees during handling.

Cattle yards should be free of any structures that restrict airflow. Cutting vegetation around pens and moving cattle away from windbreaks can help.

Increased Residue Testing of Meat, Poultry & Eggs

Source: *Texas A&M University of Beef Cattle Browsing Newsletter, Dr. Steve Hammack*

The USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service plans to increase residue testing of meat, poultry, and eggs. Up to now, testing has been for one chemical at a time. Under the proposal, as many as 55 pesticide chemicals, 9 kinds of antibiotics (approved and unapproved), various metals, and eventually over 50 other chemicals will be tested on a single sample using multi-residue methods. Industry groups have expressed support of this change in order to reassure consumers of product safety. (http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_070212_02/index.asp).

Status of COOL

Source: *Texas A&M University of Beef Cattle Browsing Newsletter, Dr. Steve Hammack*

The World Trade Organization has ruled that U. S. Country of Origin Labeling violates trade agreements by requiring more information from importers than is provided to consumers, resulting in a burden on importers without corresponding benefit to consumers. If the U. S. takes no action and continues to implement COOL as is this could mean other countries could legally take counteracting measures in the form of tariffs on some goods. Or, COOL could be modified to comply with WTO rules. Or, COOL could be dropped. The U.S. government will assess these findings and decide on a course of action, or not. More information on this decision can be found at www.wto.org.

THE IMPACT OF DROUGHT ON LIVESTOCK AND CONSUMERS

Source: Newsletter of Veterinary Entomology, Dr. Sonja L. Swiger, Extension Entomologist

While most of the attention about the drought has been on crop failures, the livestock industry is close by and represents the major consumer of grain products.

The higher cost of feed has to be absorbed by the livestock industry, which eliminates profit margin and causes discouragement among producers who end up selling livestock at lighter weights in an effort to reduce feed costs.

While crop producers are suffering reduced production this year, it will result in reduced livestock production in the coming year as herds are trimmed due to high feed costs.

The livestock industry is taking a direct hit by this summer's drought, and that will impact consumer's wallets next year.

Scott Brown, a U of Missouri agricultural economist expects to see food inflation of 8% for meat, dairy and poultry prices in the next year.

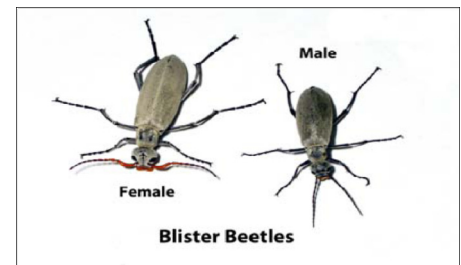
The livestock industry will experience a lot of short-term pain as it tries to adjust. This means shrinking livestock supply and less meat in grocery refrigerators in 2013. "That's certainly going to raise prices."

Pork and chicken expected to fare worse due to lack of feed substitutes.

Insect Note: Blister Beetles

Just a note, blister beetles are out this summer and in large numbers. I have not heard of any health issues with livestock but I am seeing blister beetles all over the place.

So far none have been seen in feed but keep a lookout for them and call if you have



CONTROL THOSE HORN FLIES

Source: Newsletter of Veterinary Entomology, Dr. Sonja L. Swiger, Extension Entomologist

A major fly pest for cow-calf operations is the horn fly. Horn fly control can mean an additional 12 to 20 pounds of weight per calf over the summer months and reduced weight loss for nursing cows.

Many factors should be considered when selecting a control programs, such as; cost, convenience, physical layout, and animal movement between pastures.

It is important to rotate chemical classes each year. This does not mean buy a new brand of product next year; it means that active ingredients must come from different classes (i.e., pyrethroid, organophosphate, and abamectin). If you are unsure call your local Extension Agent or me.

In addition to changing chemical classes, multiple application methods should be used during a fly season to get the most effective and integrated pest management. Just using larvicides will not kill the adult horn flies coming from your neighbors and just using ear tags will not kill any larva that do get laid.

Statewide referendum to establish a grain indemnity fund for farmers

Voting opens in November

AUSTIN, Texas (September 4, 2012) – The Texas Grain Producers Indemnity Board is holding a referendum on the statewide establishment of a grain indemnity fund. The TGPIB referendum will be held from Nov. 19, 2012, until Dec. 7, 2012 across the state.

The grain indemnity fund board may award up to 90 percent of the financial losses suffered by producers of corn, sorghum, soybean and wheat when grain buyers fail to pay for grain due to a financial failure. The TGPIB was established as the result of legislation passed by the 2011 Texas legislature and signed into law by the governor. Rep. Larry Phillips of Sherman and Sen. Craig Estes of Wichita Falls introduced the legislation after a series of grain buyer financial failures in recent years resulted in millions of dollars in losses to Texas grain producers.

Eligible voters in the referendum will vote to establish an assessment rate within a range of 0.2 percent to 0.6 percent of the final sales price of grain. The assessment, which will be set each year by the TGPIB, will be collected and remitted to the TGPIB effective Feb. 1, 2013.

Any producer who has produced corn, sorghum, soybeans or wheat within the last 36 months is eligible to vote. This includes owners of farms on which grain is produced or an owner's tenant or sharecropper engaged in the business of producing grain or causing grain to be produced for commercial purposes.

The referendum will be held by mail ballot. Ballots will be available at all Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service county offices during regular business hours.

For a ballot to be valid, it must be mailed to the Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas, 78711, with a postmark date of no later than Dec. 7, 2012.

For more information regarding the referendum, please contact the Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas, 78711 or call 512-463-3285. To learn more about TGPIB and the indemnity fund, visit www.TexasGrainIndemnity.org.

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The Texas Grain Producer Indemnity Board is a nine-member board appointed by the agriculture commissioner to oversee the establishment and operations of a state grain indemnity fund.
For more information, visit www.TexasGrainIndemnity.org.

TEXAS A&M
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New & Small Landowner Short Course

Johnson County Sheriff's Posse Arena
 (White Meeting Building)
 October 15, 22, 29, & November 5 at 6:30

Cost \$35.00 per household or \$10 per Session
 Covers Handbook, Printed Material and Refreshments

Limited to the first 30 who pre-register by October 12, 2012.
 For more information, contact the Johnson County Extension Office
 at 817-556-6370 or email johnson-tx@tamu.edu.

Session I — October 15

- Welcome/Orientation
- What is Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- NRCS - Soils & Soil Testing
- Tax Valuations

Session II — October 22

- Pasture & Hay Field Management
- Brush Control
- Pesticide Licensing

Session III — October 29

- Wildlife Management
- Pond Management

Session IV — November 5

- Livestock Options
 - Beef Cattle
 - Sheep/Goats
- Wrap Up

Speakers

- Kaleb Pool.....District Conservationist, NRCS
- Jim Daniell.....Central Appraisal District of
 Johnson County
- Matt Machacek.....Crazingland Specialist
 Blackland Prairie GLCI, NRCS
- Will Hatler.....Extension Program Specialist
 Department of Ecosystem
 Science & Management
- Nathan Rains.....Wildlife Diversity Biologist
 Texas Parks & Wildlife
- Dr. Jason Cleere.....Extension Beef Cattle Specialist
- Shane McLellan.....County Extension Agent -
 McLennan County
- Zach Davis.....County Extension Agent -
 Johnson County

This program is sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
 and is open to all land owners or interested persons in the county.

Individuals with disabilities requiring an auxiliary aid or special accommodations
 in order to participate are asked to contact Zach Davis to determine how
 reasonable accommodations may be met by October 12, 2012.

*Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.
 The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating*

TEXAS A&M
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**Johnson County
 Hay Show & Clinic**

November 8, 2012 - 6:30 p.m.

**Johnson County Sheriff's
 Posse - White Building**

Deadline to submit Hay Samples

Wednesday, October 24 5:00 p.m.

How good is your hay? Want to find out? A forage analysis can help you
 determine the nutritive value of the hay you're feeding.

Hay Classes Include:
 All Samples-\$5

Hay entries must be from this year's hay you have raised. Submit samples from with round or
 square bales. Entries should be brought in a feed sack, 1/2 sack full. Entire bales will not be ac-
 cepted.

Round bales-- samples should not be taken from the outer 4-6 inches.
 Square bales-- samples should come from the middle.

Registration fee \$10 for those entering hay samples and \$15 for hay show non-entrants. You must
 pre-register before November 2 by calling the office at (817) 556-6370.



"Additional Program Details Will Be Available Soon"

*Individuals with disabilities requiring an auxiliary and or special accommodations in order to participate in this
 program are asked to contact Zach Davis at 817.556.6370 to determine how reasonable accommodations may
 be met by November 1.*

*Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to
 race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department
 of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating*

BEEF MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Health

- Treat cattle for grubs if not done in August.
- September is anaplasmosis endemic month. Consult your veterinarian for prevention.
- Vaccinate spring calves for brucellosis, blackleg and leptospirosis.
- After fall rains new growth in grasses is high in tryptophane which triggers pulmonary emphysema.
- This is a good time to treat the entire herd for internal parasites.
- Use a pour-on to control external parasites, if needed.

Nutrition

- Forages should be tested to determine protein, TDN and energy.
- Plan winter supplementation based on forage inadequacy. A feeding program should be tailored to the specific herd.
- First calf heifers calving this fall need particular attention, feed so heifers are on an increasing plane of nutrition during calving and breeding.
- Make use of body condition score. Beef cattle are scored from 1 through 9 being extremely fat. A body condition score of 5 to 6 at calving is needed to maintain high pregnancy rates.

Forages

- Plant and fertilize small grain pasture with proper amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash depending on soil test.
- Top dress bermuda and perennial grass pastures for fall.
- Be alert - Fall Armyworms.
- Sod-seeding of small grain, clovers and vetch. Inoculate and fertilize with phosphorus and potassium.
- Prepare bermudagrass pastures for fall seeded legumes.

Management

Fall calving Oct. to Nov.)

- Move cows bred to calve in the fall to calving pasture. Place first calf heifers in convenient pasture for calving where nutrition is best. (First priority on first calf heifers is nutrition.)
- Cows in good body condition are much more likely to conceive than thin cattle.

Supplement cows if pastures are poor and cows are losing condition and are thin.

Spring calving Feb. 15 to April 15)

- Plan marketing program for spring calves. Generally calves sold in the fall are sold on a lower market than those sold in the spring. You may wish to carry calves through the stocker phase on small grain pasture.
- Plan feeding program for virgin replacement heifers to be bred in the spring. They need to weigh 65% of mature weight when bred at 14-15 months.

OCTOBER

Health

- Give Vitamin A injection if needed. Very efficient and cheap.
- Vaccinate herd against redwater and leptospirosis in endemic areas.
- Vaccinate spring heifers 4-10 months of age against brucellosis with Strain 19 vaccine, if not previously accomplished. • Cut fly tags out when tags have lost their effectiveness to prevent fly resistance.

Nutrition

- Prevent excess loss of body condition going into the winter. Weight gains are generally costly during the winter feeding period.

Forages

- Last plantings of small grain pastures.
- Be alert - Fall Armyworms.
- Top dress small grain pastures with nitrogen.
- Inoculate and plant forage legumes latter part of month. Fertilize with phosphorus and potassium.
- Forage legumes to consider Hairy Vetch, Arrowleaf Clover, Crimson Clover, Subterranean Clover, Berseem Clover, Rose Clover, and Red Clover.
- Apply fertilizer and lime for fall seeded and volunteer legume stands, if not previously accomplished.
- Start land preparation for spring plantings.

Management

(Fall calving Oct. to Nov.)

- Observe cattle daily to prevent difficulties. While heifers are more prone to have calving difficulty, older cows should likewise be watched closely.
- Treat newborn calves navel with a strong tincture (7%) iodine solution.



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
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